surplus mainly consist of old firing ranges, old camping ground, abandoned airfields etc. We have a rough idea and I would like to again say that these lands, after proper identification, will be first offered to the Central Government, then the State Government, central public sector undertakings, municipalities and other organised institutions and only as a last resort, they will be put to auction in which case private people can bid for it and develop it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHA: The civilian people have been living in cantonments. I am specially talking about Kamthee area. Kamthee area and cantonment area which comes under Nagpur division of Maharashtra. It has come so much under civilian population that in the recent past the military personnel staged a march past outside the cantonment area, beat the people and manhandled them. Such things and more over the military laws create problems for the civilians. Such things happened in Nagpur due to personal dispute. The civil area and the military area have been joined together. This area should be separated, specially keeping in view the fact that the military battalion had beaten the people of Kamthee in Nagpur. Of course, it was not fair and there were police cases too. Such quarrels take place between the civilians and the military personnel. What action would you take about it and have you any plan to separate the civilian population from the cantonment area?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUAMR: Sir, the civilian population as well as the cantonment population are living side by side and there is civilian population inside the cantonments also. The Government is aware of certain recent incidents in the cantonments and the envirous mentioned. There have been certain incidents and the Army have ordered an inquiry into it and on the basis of the inquiry, further action will be taken.

SHR BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government of West Bengal had sent a proposal four years back to take over an unutilised defence land to create infrastructure for industrial growth. In my district of Purulia of West Bengal, one airstrip was constructed during the Second World War and after the Second World War, that strip is not being used by the Armed Forces and the entire land is now lying unutilised. So, I would like to know whether the Government will consider the proposal of West Bengal to hand over the land, the Chadra airstrip in the Purulia district of West Bengal, to the State of West Bengal for creating infrastructure for industrial growth.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: There is a well laid down procedure by which the Armed Forces declare any part of their land as surplus. This will be after taking into consideration their present operational requirements as well as projects in the offing and the future requirements. After this process is gone through and the Defence land is declared surplus, it is offered first to the Central Government, State Government and so on.

We have no objection on principal to consider the request of the West Bengal. But we have to go into the details. The hon. Member's suggestion will definitely be looked into.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Kharepatan to Sawantwadi Stretch of N. H. No. 17

*637. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khare Patan to Sawantwadi stretch of National Highway No. 17 is in perpetual state of disrepair for money years;

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to repair and widen the road to four lanes and strainghtenu the curves on

the aforesaid portion of the road; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. National Highway No. 17 is maintained in traffic worthy condition within the availability of funds.

(b) Presently there is no proposal for four lancing or straightening of curves in this reach. However, to improve the condition of the road, rehabilitation of existing cement concrete Pavement in 17 Km. length was sanctioned in 1990-91 for Rs. 220.87 lakhs.

(c) Rs. 20.00 lakhs were allocated during 1991-92 for the above mentioned works.

Goods for Export to Russia

*640. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufactured goods worth over Rs. 400 crores meant for exports to Russia are piling up following the recent changes introduced in banking norms and currency regime;

(b) whether the manufacturers have represented to the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to clear off the export goods; and

(d) the time by which decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d). With the dissolution of the Soviet Union, India has been making efforts to enter into trade relationships with all the newly independent Republics.

The Trade Protocol for 1992 between India and the Russian Federation was signed on the 22nd of February, 1992. A banking arrangement has been entered into between the Reserve Bank of India and the Russian Bank of Foreign Trade. However, the Russian Bank has as yet not started issue of Letters of Credit for imports of goods from India. Russian exports to India have also not begun to take place as yet. In the absence of Rupee generation arising out of Russian exports to India, Indian exports to Russia under the new Protocol are yet to materialise in a substantial measure. Some representations have been received from India exporters in this regard. The matter has been brought to the attention of the Russian Government who have been urged to begin supplies of commodities and raw materials as per the Trade Protocol to India so that Indian exports can also take place.

Caustic Soda Flakes

*641. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the caustic soda flakes/solids/lye are being imported at present;

(b) if so, the quantity improved during 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(c) whether these items are exported also;

(d) if so, the quantity of each item exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide additional incentives for export to caustic soda; and